

Guidance for Implementation of Vermont Act 151 (2012)

The Department of Education has consulted with the American Heart Association and the American Red Cross to provide the below guidance.

During the 2012 legislative session a new law, [Act 151: An act relating to requiring cardiovascular care instruction in public and independent school](#) was passed. The law now reads:

- Comprehensive health education includes the study of: (3) (B)"information regarding and practice of compression-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation [CPR] and the use of automated external defibrillators [AEDs]."
- Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. §212 (18) annually inform superintendents and principals of regional resources available to assist schools to provide instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of automated external defibrillators and provide updated information to the education community regarding the provision of comprehensive health education.
- Sec. 3. REPORT. The Commissioner of Education shall electronically query superintendents and principals regarding whether and to what extent the instruction of cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of automated external defibrillators is offered in the schools of the state. Specifically, the commissioner shall determine in what grades, for what periods of time and in connection with what underlying courses instruction is offered. The findings from this query will be reported to the senate and house committees on education on or before February 1, 2013.

Guidance for Implementation

- Completion of CPR and AED training is not required for graduation. However, comprehensive health education is considered part of the minimum course of study for Vermont schools (click [here](#)).
- Students do *not* need to earn a CPR or AED certification
- Teachers do *not* need to hold a CPR or AED instructor certification in order to teach this content. However, please note that in Vermont a [physical education endorsement](#) requires that one must hold "current certificates in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and first aid."
- Students in grades 7 – 12, should receive information about, and a demonstration, of the use of AEDs. The American Red Cross recommends that students not engage in skill-based training to operate an AED unless they are certified in full cycle CPR.
- Schools are *not* required to purchase an AED. Schools that do own an AED are asked to report this information to the Vermont Department of Health EMS office by calling (802) 863-7310.
- Consider partnering with your school nurse or anyone else who is EMT certified (including students).

Resources

American Heart Association

- The American Heart Association now offers video based kits that include a Hands-Only CPR lesson (Hands-Only is analogous to compression-only CPR) that can be facilitated by a health educator or physical educator. The kits are described as follows:
 - Family and Friends CPR Classroom Course – designed to be facilitated by a teacher and takes about 30 minutes.
 - Family and Friends CPR Anytime - a self-contained kit with a mini mannequin and DVD which is self-guided. This learning module can be completed in about 20-25 minutes. The Department of Education has 10 copies of these kits that are available for loan to schools.
- Schools can also turn to AHA training centers to request assistance. For a list please contact Michael Dickinson at michael.dickinson@heart.org or George Murphy at George.murphy@heart.org.

American Red Cross

- The American Red Cross provides a 30 minute lesson called **Citizen CPR** where any ARC instructor whose current certification includes CPR is eligible to teach. Anyone who is not a CPR instructor can teach this lesson after successfully completing an one-hour training. For more information contact Lynn Barboza at lynn.barboza@redcross.org or (207) 513-2984.

Local Resources

- Fire or rescue departments might provide instructor assistance and/or mannequins for training. For more information please contact Matt Vinci of the Professional Firefighters at (802) 652-0085 or mattvinci@comcast.net. Also available is Jim Finger of the VT Ambulance Association (802) 773-1746 or jimatras@aol.com.
- Local hospitals might provide mannequins for training and/or funding to purchase kits. For a state-wide hospital directory, click [here](#).
- To connect with EMS volunteers from your region who could help or act as resources, contact Mike Leyden, Deputy Director of EMS at Vermont. Department of Health EMS Office Michael.leydon@state.vt.us or (802) 865-7735.